

**PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOLS
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, December 6, 2010

1:30 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building

Conference Room "A"

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68509

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Geschwender, Sharon Brodhagen, Steve Kollar, Kim Guyer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Kozisek, Roberta Worm

NDE STAFF PRESENT: Brad Dirksen, Carol Grell, Sharon Katt (left at 3:20), Yvette Martin

Carol Grell called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Carol Grell opened with announcement of the open meetings act and roll was taken with each member introducing themselves.

Approval of agenda for today's meeting with one addition. Carol asked Advisory Council to add to the agenda the discussion of verbiage to be added to statute regarding Accreditation and Diploma Mills.

Carol Grell asked for a review of the minutes from the meeting held on October 29, 2010 and a motion to approve minutes. Susan Geschwender motioned and Kim Guyer seconded approval of minutes. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes with a verbal vote of "aye".

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Carol Grell initiated discussion on the proposed revision to Statute 85-1643 Private Postsecondary Career Schools Cash Fund; created; use; fees; schedule; no refund. Discussion was held and Advisory Council proposed to wait on making a decision until Brad presented the Proposed Alternative Fees later during the meeting.
2. Discussion held to apprise the Council on language to be added to the Statute regarding "Accreditation and Diploma Mills". Suggested language proposed by the Congress was presented and our statute language will reflect the intent of the suggested language and what is appropriate for PPCS. This addition to the PPCS Statute is meant to protect Nebraska students and schools from unethical programs operating in Nebraska.
3. Brad Dirksen gave Power Point presentation on alternatives to consider in increasing fees. A discussion followed with a review of handouts demonstrating the various options. Option 1 was a review of fees charged considering percent of time spent on each action related to an assessed fee. Option 2 demonstrated a flat 30% fee increase. Carol presented Option 3 which basically reflected some of Option 1 with a few adjustments. Elements considered were time, travel and postage costs, for example.
4. The Council was also informed of proposed changes in PPCS Statutes – to fit with statute changes being proposed by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to clarify and eliminate confusion between PPCS and Coordinating Commission. There was discussion of the language in 85-1604 (7) about "education and schools exempted from the Private Postsecondary Career School Act" – deleting the verbiage (Except as provided in subsection (9) of this section,..... as of September 2, 1977.....) Added to this statement is a clarification of "(an exempted degree program that leads to an associate, bachelor, postgraduate and professional degree and regulated by agencies of this state other than the department (NDE) (ex. Coordinating Commission)).

Advisory Council took a 10 minute break from 3:30 to 3:40.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion was made by Kim Guyer to approve the change of language in statute 85-1643 Private Postsecondary Career Schools Cash Fund, and seconded by Susan Geschwender. Motion carried 100% with all members answering with "aye". Changes to proposed language in 85-1643 made by the Advisory Council during meeting; 4(a), remove wording "except that such fees shall not exceed one hundred ten percent of the previous year's total administrative cost. 4(b) will change "Total cost shall be determined by an annual audit of" to "Total cost of administration shall be determined by an annual audit of". 4(c) will be removed.
2. Motion was made by Steve Kollar and seconded by Kim Guyer to include the statement in statute regarding Accreditation and Diploma Mills. Motion carried 100% with all members answering with "aye".
3. Motion made by Susan Geschwender and seconded by Steve Kollar to withdraw the 10% increase in fees approved at the meeting on October 29, 2010, and change to 30% increase in fees rounded to the nearest dollar amount for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Motion carried 100% with all members answering with "aye".

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Discussion was held on next meeting date. Advisory Council decided to revisit the Proposed Alternative Fees after the statute change has been approved by the Legislature. This will, hopefully, be in May or June of 2011.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Kim Guyer and seconded by Susan Geschwender to adjourn meeting at 3:55.

HANDOUTS:

Proposed Alternative Fees, how Option 1 was figured, Proposed PPCS Changes to Statute 85-1643, Accreditation/Diploma Mill statement.